







Recognition Levels

Level	Criteria	Benefits
<p>Level 1: Sprout</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of Commitment • Identify at least one goal • Set up START profile • Complete MGS Baseline Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate • Recognized on website under year of participation • Invitation to MGS Celebration • 1 hour conference with a mentor
<p>Level 2: Seedling</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a committee to support this work • Benchmark a minimum of one of the following for your school: energy, waste, or water (ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager preferred) • Document achievements in a minimum of 1 Educational Programming START Topic • All Sprout level criteria met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition at the MEEA Annual Conference • Eligibility for MEEA Environmental Educator grant • All Sprout level benefits
<p>Level 3: Sapling</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmark all energy, waste, water consumption (ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager preferred) • Demonstrate reduction of resource usage over the last 1 – 3 years within a minimum of one area: energy, waste, or water • Achieve Tier 2 or 3 in a minimum of 2 Educational Programming START Topics • Tier 2 or 3 achievements in a minimum of 4 Organizational Culture START Topics • All Seedling level criteria met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGS banner (provided initial year of level achievement) • Reduced rate for teams attending the MEEA Annual Conference or Sustainability Institute for Educators • School's MGS story highlighted on MEEA and USGBC-MGC website, social media, and/or newsletter • Invitation to create an MGS webinar or case study to share your story
<p>Level 4: Flowering Dogwood</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate reductions over the last 1-3 years across energy, waste, and water • Tier 2 or 3 achievements in a minimum of 5 Educational Programming START Topics • Tier 2 or 3 achievements in a minimum of 8 Organizational Culture START Topics • Tier 2 or 3 achievements in a minimum of 15 Physical Place START Topics • Provide one contact to serve as a mentor • All Sapling level criteria met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition level and year banner addition • Eligible to apply for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition • 1 free MEEA Annual Conference or Sustainability Institute for Educators registration • Invitation to present at the MEEA Annual Conference or Sustainability Institute for Educators